



FACT SHEET

Used Oil

Did you know it's illegal to dump your used oil? Almost 19 million gallons of used automotive and industrial oil are generated each year in Kentucky. It is illegal to dump used oil because it can pollute the environment and endanger public health. Dumping used oil may result in a fine of up to \$1,000. Local laws also may provide severe penalties for dumping the substance.

Hazards of dumping used oil

Used oil contains harmful chemical waste, some of which is potentially hazardous to human health. Oil dumped in storm sewers, in the garbage or on the ground can eventually find its way into our water supply. Storm sewers lead to the nearest stream, river or lake. Heavy rains can transport oils dumped on the ground into our waterways. The contaminants in used oil have been linked to bronchitis; adverse impacts on human fetal development; lethal toxicity to plants and animals; and human cancers of the skin, lung, liver, bladder, kidney and gastrointestinal tract.

Recycling used oil conserves our resources

Millions of gallons of used oil are carelessly dumped in Kentucky each year. Most is thrown away by people who change their own oil. Used oil can be blended into heating oil or re-refined into lubricating oil or used in the manufacture of other products. The four million gallons of oil thrown away every year in Kentucky could be turned into heating oil for more than 5,000 homes. Re-refining used oil makes it as good as new. Used oil can be re-refined for lubricating oil with one-fourth the energy required to refine from crude. And through re-refining, 2 ½ quarts of motor oil can be recovered from one gallon of used oil. But the energy potential is lost forever when it is thrown away.



Happy returns

Several Kentucky service stations and businesses have established collection centers where you can drop off the used oil from your cars, lawnmowers, tractors, boats and motorcycles. To recycle your oil, simply drain it in to a suitable container, transfer it into an unbreakable, sealable container (such as a plastic milk jug or gas can) and take it to a collection center displaying this sign. *Don't use a container that has held household chemicals, like bleach.* For locations in Kentucky, please visit our Web site at <http://www.waste.ky.gov/programs/rcla/Used+Oil.htm>. You can access information about recycling in your community by going to the Earth 911 site at <http://www.earth911.org/> and typing in your ZIP code. Or you can call 1-800-CLEANUP. More information, including "how to" tips on changing your oil and a guide for businesses, is available by searching "used oil" at the U.S. Environmental Protection site -- <http://www.epa.gov/>

DO'S

- ✓ Collect your used oil in a container.
- ✓ Take your used oil to a collection center.

DON'TS

- ✗ Don't dump used oil on the ground or in your garbage.
- ✗ Don't dump used oil on the roads.
- ✗ Don't dump used oil in sewers and storm drains.



Kentucky Division of Waste Management

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